

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01970 161958Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00
SY-05 CA-01 /122 W
-----116137 180905Z /10

R 161959Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1384
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01970

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: CONVERSATION WITH NAMIBIAN-BASED
JOURNALIST

REF: (A) PRETORIA 2564; (B) CAPE TOWN 891

1. AMBASSADOR MCHENRY AND STONEY COOKS MET MAY 11 WITH
AYMON FRANK, WINDHOEK-BASED JOURNALIST DISCUSSED REFTELS.
FRANK SEEMED KNOWLEDGEABLE OF NAMIBIAN POLITICAL SCENE
(WITH COMMENTS GENERALLY FOLLOWING LINES REPORTED
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REF A), BUT HE GAVE THE IMPRESSION OF HAVING ULTERIOR
MOTIVES WHICH WE COULD NOT DISCERN AND WHICH MAKE HIS
COMMENTS AND IMPRESSIONS SUSPECT IN OUR VIEW. IN THE
COURSE OF CONVERSATION, FRANK ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE IS
QUIETLY ACTIVE IN NAMIBIAN POLITICS, AND THE DRIFT OF
HIS COMMENTS WAS DEFINITELY PRO-NNF.

2. OF INTEREST, BUT WITH ABOVE CAVEAT, WERE FRANK'S ASSESSMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE DEMOCRATIC TURNHALLE ALLIANCE AND THE NAMIBIAN NATIONAL FRONT. HE STATED THAT THE DTA BUDGET IS NOW 250,000 RAND PER MONTH OF WHICH 180,000 RAND GOES FOR MONTHLY SALARIES. HE SAID THAT THE BULK OF THIS MONEY COMES FROM GERMANY AND THAT THE DTA IS AFRAID THAT THE MONEY COULD BE TURNED OFF AT ANY TIME. IN CONTRAST, FRANK STATED THAT THE NNF HAS A TOTAL OF 14,000 RAND AT ITS DISPOSAL. HE DESCRIBED THE DTA AS AN ORGANIZATION "UNABLE TO UNITE PEOPLE BEHIND THE PRINCIPLE OF ETHNICITY" ESPECIALLY FOLLOWING KAPPUUO'S DEATH AND CLAIMED THAT THE NNF WAS WELL-ORGANIZED, CONSISTENT IN ITS APPROACH, BUT LACKING IN MONEY. HIS COMMENTS ON SWAPO WERE CONSISTENTLY NEGATIVE ("NOT WELL ENOUGH ORGANIZED" AND "RELYING HEAVILY ON SLOGANS"). AS REPORTED REF A, HE BELIEVES THAT IF FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS WERE TO BE HELD NOW NO SINGLE PARTY WOULD WIN A MAJORITY. SWAPO, HE FEELS, WOULD COME IN ON TOP WITH 35-40 PERCENT WITH THE REMAINDER DIVIDED BETWEEN NNF AND DTA. MCHENRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, JOURNALISTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN01970
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780209-0246
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780552/aaaabryy.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 30353e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PRETORIA 2564, 78 CAPE TOWN 891
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2672632
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: CONVERSATION WITH NAMIBIAN-BASED JOURNALIST
TAGS: PORG, PDEV, SF, WA, (FRANK, AYMOM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/30353e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014